

## Mayor's Economic Resiliency Task Force (ERTF)

### ERTF Members

Bill Popp, co-chair  
*Anchorage Economic Development Corporation*

Julie Saupe, co-chair  
*Visit Anchorage*

Jon Bittner  
*Alaska Small Business Development Center*

Bruce Bustamante  
*Anchorage Chamber of Commerce*

Drew Cason  
*Anchorage Home Builders Association*

Judith Crotty  
*Wells Fargo*

Monica Emerton  
*Green Connection and BOMA Anchorage*

Shawn Hays  
*Anchorage Home Builders Association*

Mara Kimmel  
*Municipality of Anchorage*

Nolan Klouda  
*UAA Center for Economic Development*

Heather MacAlpine  
*Office of Equal Opportunity*

Amanda Moser  
*Anchorage Downtown Partnership*

Nikole Nelson  
*Alaska Legal Services Corporation*

Sarah Daulton Oates  
*Alaska CHARR*

Debbie Rinckey  
*Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce*

Kirk Rose  
*Anchorage Community Land Trust*

Chris Schutte  
*Office of Economic and Community Development*

Alicia Siira  
*Associated General Contractors*

Alex Slivka  
*Office of Management and Budget*

Jasmine Smith  
*The Business Boutique*

Ethan Tyler  
*CIRI*

Isaac Vanderburg  
*Launch Alaska*

Silvia Villamides  
*Alaska Hospitality Retailers*

Jonathan White  
*Steam Dot Coffee Company*

Laurie Wolf  
*The Foraker Group*

Geoff Wright  
*Pango Technology, Inc.*

The Anchorage Economic Resiliency Task Force urges the State of Alaska to create an Emergency Relief Grant Program to provide assistance of up to \$10,000 to targeted small businesses and nonprofits impacted by COVID-19 disruptions. The grants will provide desperately needed working capital to small businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 50 employees and less than \$5 million in annual revenues.

The State of Alaska should dedicate a minimum of \$125 million of recently approved \$1.25 billion in Federal COVID-19 Assistance funds to assist thousands of businesses statewide.

The ERTF suggests the following guidelines for the grant program:

- Grants will be up to \$10,000 for Alaska businesses and nonprofits impacted by the COVID-19 emergency that have 50 or fewer employees, not to exceed 3 months of cash operating expenses.
  - Nonprofits should not be limited to only 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) entities
- Applicants must have been in operation prior to March 9, 2020.
- Applicants must be in good legal standing with the state and federal government.
- Applicants must have employees on their payroll for whom they have had payroll taxes withheld (i.e. W-2 employees).
- Annual Revenues of the business or nonprofit not to exceed \$5 million as evidenced by Financial Statement or other financial documentation.
- Applicants that receive funding through this program are expected to seek longer term funding through its bank, SBA, or other source.
- Eligible uses include: working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses, or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of operations.
  - The business or nonprofit must demonstrate financial stress or disrupted operations, which may include but are not limited to:
    - Notices from tenants closing operations and not paying rent caused by loss of income.
    - Notice of inability to make loan payments due to reduced sales, suspended operations.
    - Increased cost related to COVID-19 prevention measures.
    - Notice of disrupted supply network leading to shortage of critical inventory or materials.
    - Other circumstances subject to review on a case by case basis.

## **Mayor's Economic Resiliency Task Force (ERTF)**

With the funding for the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Emergency Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program having run out and the timeline for businesses and nonprofits to receive additional federal relief uncertain, there is a desperate need for immediate funding to help Alaska's smaller organizations survive. According to the Alaska Department of Labor, there are 14,000 businesses and 2,000 nonprofits with fewer than 50 employees (not including sole proprietors and the self-employed). This funding would allow the state to assist at least 12,500 of those organizations relatively quickly, keeping them solvent for the next three months until additional programs and funds can be brought online.

Because of the tremendous need for these grants, we anticipate that there will be a large number of applications once the programs is launched. In order to avoid delaying payments, applications could be processed by business or economic development organizations, nonprofit support organizations or various local and regional task forces created to address the COVID-19 impacts in their communities on behalf of the state.

The ERTF recommends that the State immediately develop the program outlined above so that it is in place and ready to accept applications as soon as the federal CARES Act funding is deployed in Alaska. This will allow for the grants to be deployed as quickly as possible. Agreements with partner organizations, development of an application process and the creation of an online application form or portal will take time and the sooner they are developed the better.

Produced by: Business Programs and Tactics Group  
Mayor's Economic Resiliency Task Force